

Message Text

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43

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-20 SP-03 NSC-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, UY

SUBJECT: MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE TEMPORARILY REPLACED

REF : MONTEVIDEO 1316

1. PRESIDENT BORDABERRY, IN GOVERNMENTAL RESOLUTIONS ISSUED ON JUNE 10, ACCEPTED THE TEMPORARY ABSENCE FOR REASONS OF ILL HEALTH OF BENITO MEDERO FROM THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND APPOINTED JULIO AZNAREZ BECHTOLD AS INTERIM MINISTER. MINISTER MEDERO IS REPORTED TO HAVE PNEUMONIA AND IS LIKELY TO BE ABSENT FROM HIS MINISTERIAL DUTIES FOR AT LEAST A MONTH.

2. AZNAREZ WAS ALSO APPOINTED BY PRESIDENT BORDABERRY TO THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE SLOT, WHICH HAS BEEN VACANT SINCE LATE LAST YEAR FOLLOWING THE RESIGNATION OF FORMER UNDER-SECRETARY LAZARO GUREVICH. THE 32 YEAR OLD AZNAREZ IS A GRADUATE AGRICULTURE ENGINEER AND PRESIDENT OF THE HONORARY COMMISSION FOR THE AGRICULTURAL LIVESTOCK PLAN, A POSITION WHICH HE WILL RETAIN. HE HAS LONG BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH AND IS LIKELY TO CONTINUE THE GOVERNMENT'S AGRICULTURAL POLICIES. AZNAREZ HAS TRAVELLED TO THE UNITED STATES ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS, MOST RECENTLY TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE WORLD BANK THE FOURTH LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT

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ASSISTANCE LOAN, A PROGRAM ADMINISTERED BY THE HONORARY

COMMISSION.

3. COMMENT: MINISTER MEDERO IS RELIABLY REPORTED TO BE ILL. NEVERTHELESS HIS TEMPORARY DEPARTURE COMES IN MIDST OF CONTINUING RUMORS OF MAJOR MINISTERIAL HANES WHICH COULD INCLUDE HIS OWN PORTFOLIO. INFLUENTIAL LIVESTOCK SECTORS CONTINUE TO EXPRESS INTENSE DISAGREEMENT WITH THE GOVERNMENT'S AGRICULTURAL POLICIES AND WITH MINISTER MEDERO. LATEST EVIDENCE OF THIS DISACCORD IS THE RECENT RESIGNATION OF RURAL FEERATION LEADER DR. HOLNES GALLERO FROM THE NATIONAL MORTGAGE BANK FOLLOWING A DECISION BY THIS POWERFUL LIVESTOCK ASSOCIATION THAT ITS LEADERSHIP NOT BE DIRECTLY ASSOCIATED WITH THE ADMINISTRATION. IN VIEW OF THE ABOVE, CONSIDERABLE DOUBT EXISTS WHETHER MEDERO WILL EVER RESUME HIS MINISTERIAL PORTFOLIO.
SIRACUSA

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